

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method for managing, storing, and disseminating compliance assurance (CA) information using a web-based system including a server system coupled to a centralized interactive database and at least one client system, said method comprising:

receiving CA information at the server from a client system;

storing CA information and a plurality of audit checklists within the centralized database;

cross-referencing CA information;

updating the centralized database periodically to maintain CA information;

displaying on a client system a compliance calendar option, an audit tracking option, and audit tool option, wherein the compliance calendar option causes to be displayed on the client system CA tasks to be performed and corresponding CA deadlines for a selected location, wherein the audit tracking option prompts the user to input audit information for a selected location, and wherein the audit tool option prompts the user to select at least one audit checklist from the plurality of audit checklists stored within the database;

processing at the server an inquiry submitted by the user including a selection of one of the options displayed on the client system;

providing CA information in response to the inquiry;

notifying users electronically of CA tasks to be performed at a selected location and corresponding CA deadlines; and

tracking the CA tasks to be performed at the selected location and the corresponding CA deadlines to ensure compliance; and

transmitting a CA task summary report to a manager responsible for managing compliance for a plurality of locations, wherein for each location being managed by the manager

the summary report displays: active CA tasks, CA tasks completed year to date, total CA tasks year to date, percentage of CA tasks completed year to date, and total CA tasks past due.

2. (original) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein receiving CA information comprises receiving at least one of business information, organizational information, site information, assigned contact person information, COE/department information, building information, CA audit tracking information, CA task information, CA calendar information, CA task reminder information, frequency of reminder information, environmental information, health and safety information, quality information, legal information, human resources information, management information, and corporate compliance information.

3. (original) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein cross-referencing CA information further comprises compiling a user schedule using CA information regarding tasks being performed.

4. (original) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein cross-referencing CA information further comprises creating a user CA calendar based on at least one of previously created user CA calendars and changes in CA audit tracking information.

5. (original) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein providing CA information comprises:

displaying information to a user identifying at least one of a site location and a CA task to be performed at a site location; and

receiving an inquiry from the client system regarding at least one of a site location and a CA task to be performed at a site location.

6. (original) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein providing CA information comprises:

displaying information on the client system regarding at least one of a site location, CA calendar, CA audit tracking system, CA audit tool, and CA contacts information; and

receiving an inquiry from the client system regarding at least one of a site location, CA calendar, CA audit tracking system, CA audit tool, and CA contacts information.

7. (original) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein providing CA information comprises:

accessing the centralized database;

searching the database regarding the specific inquiry;

retrieving information from the database; and

transmitting the retrieved information to the client system for display by the client system.

8. (currently amended) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein providing CA information comprises providing ~~at least one of~~ business information, organizational information, site information, assigned contact person information, COE/department information, building information, CA audit tracking information, CA task information, CA calendar information, CA task reminder information, frequency of reminder information, environmental information, health and safety information, quality information, legal information, human resources information, management information, and corporate compliance information.

9. (previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein notifying users comprises transmitting an electronic message to the client system from the server system notifying at least one user of a CA task to be performed and a CA audit tracking task to be performed.

10. (original) A method in accordance with Claim 1 further comprising connecting the client system and the server system via a network that includes one of a wide area network, a local area network, an intranet and the Internet.

11. (currently amended) A method for managing, storing, and disseminating compliance assurance (CA) information using a web-based system including a server system coupled to a

centralized interactive database, at least one managerial user system, and at least one client system, said method comprising:

receiving CA information at the server from a client system, said CA information comprising site information including environmental information, health and safety information, legal information, corporate compliance information, and contacts information;

storing CA information and a plurality of audit checklists within the centralized database;

cross-referencing CA information;

updating the centralized database periodically to maintain CA information;

displaying on a client system a compliance calendar option, an audit tracking option, and audit tool option, wherein the compliance calendar option causes to be displayed on the client system CA tasks to be performed and corresponding CA deadlines for a selected location, wherein the audit tracking option prompts the user to input audit information for a selected location, and wherein the audit tool option prompts the user to select at least one audit checklist from the plurality of audit checklists stored within the database;

processing at the server an inquiry submitted by the user including a selection of one of the options displayed on the client system;

providing CA information in response to the inquiry;

notifying users electronically of CA tasks to be performed at a selected location and corresponding CA deadlines;

tracking the CA tasks to be performed at the selected location and the corresponding CA deadlines to ensure compliance; and

providing an electronic report of the CA tasks to be performed and the CA deadlines to the managerial user system, wherein the report displays active CA tasks, CA tasks completed year to date, total CA tasks year to date, percentage of CA tasks completed year to date, and total CA tasks past due for the selected location.

12. (original) A method in accordance with Claim 11 wherein receiving CA information comprises receiving requested information from the client system relating to certain topics including at least one of environment, health and safety, quality, legal, and corporate compliance.

13. (previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 11 wherein processing at the server comprises using the audit tool to process the CA information to assure compliance with certain laws, rules, regulations, standards, and policies.

14. (original) A method in accordance with Claim 11 wherein notifying users comprises transmitting an electronic message to the client system from the server system notifying the user of the CA tasks to be performed within a time period shown on the CA calendar such that compliance with certain laws, rules, regulations, standards, and policies relating to certain topics including at least environment, health and safety, quality, legal, and corporate compliance is assured.

15. (original) A method in accordance with Claim 11 wherein providing an electronic report comprises transmitting an electronic report to the managerial user system from the server system comprising a summary of the CA tasks performed at a site location for a time period shown on the CA calendar such that managerial oversight of the CA information is facilitated and compliance with certain laws, rules, regulations, standards, and policies relating to certain topics including at least one of environment, health and safety, quality, legal, and corporate compliance is assured.

16. (currently amended) A method for manipulating CA information using a web-based system including a server system coupled to a centralized interactive database and at least one client system, said method comprising:

receiving CA information at the server comprising business information, organizational information, site information, assigned contact person information, COE/department information, building information, CA audit tracking information, CA task information, CA calendar information, CA task reminder information, frequency of reminder information, environmental information, health and safety information, quality information, legal information, human resources information, management information, and corporate compliance information;

storing CA information and a plurality of audit checklists within the centralized database;

updating the centralized database with CA information comprising adding and deleting information so as to revise existing CA information including at least one of CA task information, CA calendar information, and CA audit tracking information;

displaying on a client system a compliance calendar option, an audit tracking option, and audit tool option, wherein the compliance calendar option causes to be displayed on the client system CA tasks to be performed and corresponding CA deadlines for a selected location, wherein the audit tracking option prompts the user to input audit information for a selected location, and wherein the audit tool option prompts the user to select at least one audit checklist from the plurality of audit checklists stored within the database;

processing at the server an inquiry submitted by the user including a selection of one of the options displayed on the client system;

providing CA information in response to the inquiry comprising business information, organizational information, site information, assigned contact person information, COE/department information, building information, CA audit tracking information, CA task information, CA calendar information, CA task reminder information, frequency of reminder information, environmental information, health and safety information, quality information, legal information, human resources information, management information, and corporate compliance information, in response to an inquiry, including downloading requested information from the server system and displaying requested information on the client system, the inquiry including utilizing at least one pull-down lists, check boxes, and hypertext links; ~~and~~

notifying users of CA tasks to be performed at the selected location and the corresponding CA deadlines comprising transmitting an electronic message to the client system from the server system notifying the user of a CA task to be performed; and

transmitting a CA task summary report to a manager responsible for managing compliance for a plurality of locations, wherein for each location being managed by the manager

the summary report displays: active CA tasks, CA tasks completed year to date, total CA tasks year to date, percentage of CA tasks completed year to date, and total CA tasks past due.

17. (currently amended) A network based system for managing, storing, and disseminating CA information, said system comprising:

a client system comprising a browser;

a centralized database for storing information;

a server system configured to be coupled to said client system and said database, said server system further configured to:

receive CA information from the client system;

store CA information into and a plurality of audit checklists within the centralized database;

cross-reference CA information;

update the centralized database periodically to maintain CA information;

display on the client system a compliance calendar option, an audit tracking option, and audit tool option, wherein the compliance calendar option causes to be displayed on the client system CA tasks to be performed and corresponding CA deadlines for a selected location, wherein the audit tracking option prompts the user to input audit information for a selected location, and wherein the audit tool option prompts the user to select at least one audit checklist from the plurality of audit checklists stored within the database;

process an inquiry submitted by the user including a selection of one of the options displayed on the client system;

provide CA information in response to the inquiry;

notify users electronically of CA tasks to be performed at a selected location and corresponding CA deadlines; and

tracking the CA tasks to be performed at the selected location and the corresponding CA deadlines to ensure compliance; and

transmit a CA task summary report to a manager responsible for managing compliance for a plurality of locations, wherein for each location being managed by the manager the summary report displays: active CA tasks, CA tasks completed year to date, total CA tasks year to date, percentage of CA tasks completed year to date, and total CA tasks past due.

18. (original) A system in accordance with Claim 17 wherein said client system further comprises at least one of:

a displaying component for displaying at least one of a pull-down list, a check box, and hypertext link options relating to CA audit tracking information and CA scheduling information;

a sending component to send an inquiry to the server system so that the server system can process and download the requested information to the client system;

a collection component for collecting CA information from users into the centralized database;

a tracking component for tracking CA information;

a displaying component for displaying CA information on at least one site location;

a receiving component for receiving an inquiry from the client system regarding at least one of business information, organizational information, site information, assigned contact person information, COE/department information, building information, CA audit tracking information, CA task information, CA calendar information, CA task reminder information, frequency of reminder information, environmental information, health and safety information, quality information, legal information, human resources information, management information, and corporate compliance information;

an accessing component for accessing the centralized database and causing the retrieved information to be displayed on the client system; and

a notifying component for electronically notifying users of CA tasks and CA deadlines.

19. (original) A system in accordance with Claim 17 wherein said server system further comprises a receiving component for receiving an inquiry to provide information from one of a plurality of users.

20. (original) A system in accordance with Claim 17 wherein said server system further comprises a processing component for searching and processing received inquiries against the database containing information collected by the collection component, and for cross-referencing at least one of CA calendar information, CA task information, and CA audit tracking information.

21. (original) A system in accordance with Claim 17 wherein said server system further comprises a retrieving component to retrieve CA information from the database.

22. (original) A system in accordance with Claim 17 wherein said server system further comprises an information fulfillment component that downloads the requested information after retrieving from the database.

23. (original) A system in accordance with Claim 17 wherein said server system further comprises a receiving component that receives an inquiry from the client system regarding at least one of business information, organizational information, site information, assigned contact person information, COE/department information, building information, CA audit tracking information, CA task information, CA calendar information, CA task reminder information, frequency of reminder information, environmental information, health and safety information, quality information, legal information, human resources information, management information, and corporate compliance information.

24. (original) A system in accordance with Claim 17 wherein said server system further comprises at least one of a receiving component that receives information directly through the client system, and a receiving component that receives information in a pre-determined format established for inputting CA information.

25. (original) A system in accordance with Claim 17 wherein said server system further comprises a cross-referencing component that accomplishes at least one of:

- compiling a user schedule using CA information regarding CA tasks being performed;
- creating a user CA calendar based on previously created user CA calendars; and
- creating a user CA calendar based on changes in CA audit tracking information.

26. (original) A system in accordance with Claim 17 wherein said server system further comprises a notifying component that notifies a user through at least one of transmitting an electronic message to the client system regarding a CA task to be performed, and transmitting an electronic message to the client system regarding a CA audit tracking task to be performed.

27. (currently amended) A network based system for managing, storing, and disseminating CA information, said system comprising:

- a client system comprising a browser;
- a managerial user system comprising a browser;
- a centralized database for storing information;
- a server system configured to be coupled to said client system, said managerial user system, and said database, said server system further configured to:
 - receive CA information from the client system, said CA information comprising site information including environmental information, health and safety information, legal information, corporate compliance information, and contact information;
 - store CA information and a plurality of audit checklists within the centralized database;
 - cross-reference CA information;
 - update the centralized database periodically to maintain CA information;

display on the client system a compliance calendar option, an audit tracking option, and audit tool option, wherein the compliance calendar option causes to be displayed on the client system CA tasks to be performed and corresponding CA deadlines for a selected location, wherein the audit tracking option prompts the user to input audit information for a selected location, and wherein the audit tool option prompts the user to select at least one audit checklist from the plurality of audit checklists stored within the database;

process an inquiry submitted by the user including a selection of one of the options displayed on the client system;

provide CA information in response to the inquiry;

notify users electronically of CA tasks to be performed at a selected location and corresponding CA deadlines;

track the CA tasks to be performed at the selected location and the corresponding CA deadlines to ensure compliance; and

provide an electronic report of the CA tasks to be performed and the CA deadlines to the managerial user system, wherein the report displays active CA tasks, CA tasks completed year to date, total CA tasks year to date, percentage of CA tasks completed year to date, and total CA tasks past due for the selected location.

28. (original) A system in accordance with Claim 27 wherein providing CA information comprises:

displaying option information on the client system regarding at least one of a site location, CA calendar, CA audit tracking system, CA audit tool, and CA contacts information; and

receiving an inquiry from the client system regarding at least one of a site location, CA calendar, CA audit tracking system, CA audit tool, and CA contacts information.

29. (original) A system in accordance with Claim 27 wherein said server system further comprises a receiving component that receives an inquiry from the client system regarding certain topics including at least one of environment, health and safety, quality, legal, and corporate compliance.

30. (original) A system in accordance with Claim 27 wherein said server system further comprises a processing component that cross-references CA information with the CA audit tool to assure compliance with certain laws, rules, regulations, standards, and policies.

31. (original) A system in accordance with Claim 27 wherein said server system further comprises a notifying component that notifies users by transmitting an electronic message to the client system from the server system regarding a CA task to be performed within a time period shown on the CA calendar such that compliance with certain laws, rules, regulations, standards, and policies relating to certain topics including at least environment, health and safety, quality, legal, and corporate compliance is assured.

32. (original) A system in accordance with Claim 27 wherein said server system further comprises a providing component that provides an electronic report to the managerial user system by transmitting an electronic report to the managerial user system from the server system summarizing the CA tasks performed at a site location for a time period shown on the CA calendar such that managerial oversight of the CA information is facilitated and compliance with certain laws, rules, regulations, standards, and policies relating to certain topics including at least one of environment, health and safety, quality, legal, and corporate compliance is assured.

33. (currently amended) A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium for managing, storing, and disseminating CA information, said program comprising a code segment that receives CA information and then:

maintains a database by adding, deleting and updating CA information;

displays on a client system a compliance calendar option, an audit tracking option, and audit tool option, wherein the compliance calendar option causes to be displayed on the client system CA tasks to be performed and corresponding CA deadlines for a selected location,

wherein the audit tracking option prompts the user to input audit information for a selected location, and wherein the audit tool option prompts the user to select at least one audit checklist from the plurality of audit checklists stored within the database;

processes an inquiry submitted by the user including a selection of one of the options displayed on the client system;

provides CA information in response to the inquiry;

notifies users of CA tasks to be performed at a selected location and corresponding CA deadlines;

tracks the CA tasks to be performed at the selected location and the corresponding CA deadlines to ensure compliance; and

provides a report of said CA tasks to be performed and said CA deadlines transmits a CA task summary report to a manager responsible for managing compliance for a plurality of locations, wherein for each location being managed by the manager the summary report displays: active CA tasks, CA tasks completed year to date, total CA tasks year to date, percentage of CA tasks completed year to date, and total CA tasks past due.

34. (original) A computer program in accordance with Claim 33 further comprising a code segment that provides at least one of:

an option to filter CA calendars based on at least one of site information, CA task type, assigned contact person, and time frame;

an option to filter CA audit tracking system based on at least one of site information, CA task type, assigned contact person, and time frame; and

an option to filter CA audit tool system based on at least one of site information, CA task type, assigned contact person, and time frame.

35. (original) A computer program in accordance with Claim 33 further comprising a code segment that generates a display of at least one of business information, organizational

information, site information, assigned contact person information, COE/department information, building information, CA audit tracking information, CA task information, CA calendar information, CA task reminder information, frequency of reminder information, environmental information, health and safety information, quality information, legal information, human resources information, management information, and corporate compliance information.

36. (original) A computer program in accordance with Claim 33 further comprising:

a code segment that accesses said database;

a code segment that searches said database in response to an inquiry;

a code segment that retrieves information from said database;

a code segment that causes retrieved information to be displayed on a client system;

a code segment that notifies a user of CA tasks and CA deadlines; and

a code segment that causes a report summarizing the CA tasks and the CA deadlines for a site location to be displayed on a managerial user system.

37. (original) A computer program in accordance with Claim 33 further comprising a code segment that monitors the security of the system by restricting access to authorized individuals.

38. (original) A computer program in accordance with Claim 33 further comprising a code segment that cross-references said CA calendar when a CA task is performed.

39. (original) A computer program in accordance with Claim 33 further comprising a code segment that cross-references said CA calendar to at least one previously created CA calendar when CA information is received.

40. (original) A computer program in accordance with Claim 33 further comprising a code segment that cross-references said CA calendar with said CA audit tracking system information.